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4-22-2004

GSUniverse, 2004-04-22

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, GSUniverse (2004, April 22). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuniverse/83>

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From: Hopkins, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2004 10:07 AM
Subject: GSUniverse



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"And let me say...that without earnestness there is nothing sound or beautiful in character and that a cynical vein much indulged in coarsens everything in us."

Gerard Manly Hopkins

GSU Open House, Saturday, May 1, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Riverwatch Training

GSU Links...

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IBHE News Releases...

IBHE Launches new study of higher ed [productivity](#)

IBHE to act on FY2005 budget [recommendations](#)

Governor names Alice [Hayes to IBHE](#)

Fiscal Year 2005 [Higher Education Cooperation Act Grants](#)

IBHE Priorities: Accountability, Efficiency, Productivity

At the IBHE meeting April 13, staff and directors spelled out their priorities for the coming year. They announced their focus will be on finding ways to hold faculty and administrators accountable for improving productivity and increasing efficiency. "They were surprised to learn how much higher education has already accomplished in these areas," GSU President Stuart Fagan said, pointing to such activities as joint purchasing agreements and the system of checks and balances already in place.

Paul Keys Named to Productivity Task Force

Paul Keys was named to the special task force charged with recommending ways to improve accountability, efficiency, and productivity, popularly called the Committee on Productivity, Priorities, and Accountability (PPA). He will serve as the academic representative of all the provosts in public higher education. The taskforce is headed by IBHE board member Tom Lamont. The task force will present its recommendations

later in the year. They will serve as the basis for IBHE's priorities for Fiscal Year 2006.

What Exactly Is the Task Force Asked to Do?

IBHE is asking the task force to review the mission and focus statements of each public university "to provide a context for analyzing the appropriateness of institutional and statewide program arrays and providing a context for institutions to determine how best to allocate and redirect funds to high priority activities." As to productivity, the task force will address the thorny question of faculty productivity. The nature and scope of faculty work is to be examined in light of institutional mission and focus. "This is the hardest issue of all," Keys said, "but there are state and national models available to us. For example, a recent American Association of State Colleges and Universities conference presented a national benchmark study, the federally-funded Expanded Delaware Study of Instructional Costs and Productivity, that can give us guidelines. Materially, the benchmark data shows the differences among the various academic disciplines that must be considered in any productivity studies. I hope we can bring that and other benchmark data in and use it." Efficiency applies to the administrative wing, covering subjects ranging from identifying unnecessary reports, to cooperative efforts between universities in areas such as joint procurement, to investigation of the high cost of textbooks. The committee will examine current accountability practices as well.

Capital Policy Changed

In a discussion of capital policies and priorities, IBHE state funds may now be used for the construction of residence halls for commuter colleges.

Scheduling Committee Being Formed

At the meeting of the Administrative Group April 14, President Fagan announced he was establishing a committee to recommend changes in course scheduling in order to make classes more convenient for students and to maximize available classroom space. "We need to look seriously at the times classes are scheduled, weekend classes, and accelerated courses as well," he said. He announced the appointment of Deans William Nowlin, Linda Samson, and John Stoll and said he would name additional members to the committee.

And the winner is...

The College of Health Professions brought in \$11,935 during the Alumni Phonathon last month, putting the college in first place in the contest to secure the most pledges.

"Congratulations to Linda Samson and all the members of her college," said Rosemary Hulett-Cohee, director of Alumni Relations." CHP takes home \$1500 in prize money -- and possession of the coveted Pink Pig award, too. Taking second place: College of Arts and Sciences with \$8,595 in pledges. Third place: CELCS and the Board of Governors degree program with \$6,105. Hulett-Cohee said, "My sincere thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers. Great job!" She added that the Phonathon yielded more than \$65,000 in pledges. The Alumni Association funds will provide funding for student scholarships, faculty professional development activities, library enhancements, the employee of the month program and several other programs as well.

Citizen Scientists -- Riverwatch Training at GSU

From Dr. Karen D'Arcy, professor of Analytical Chemistry: "GSU will be hosting a free Riverwatch training session on Saturday, April 24th. This is an opportunity for local folks to get involved in environmental monitoring through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources." For more information, check the Riverwatch [Training Schedule](#).

ScholarShip Sails On: Accounting

Lloyd Sage, university professor of Accounting, presented a paper entitled "Financial Statement Analysis Case Project and AICPA Core Competency Framework," co-authored with Judith Sage, at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Accounting Association, March 26, in Kansas City, MO.

From the Archives

From the April 9, 1973, *Faze 1*: "CONESTOGA: GSU/SSU STYLE...Is Community College Frontiers, a brand new professional magazine sponsored by GSU and Sangamon State University. Pres. WILLIAM ENGBRETSON and SSU Pres. ROBERT C. SPENSER introduced the new publication with a joint announcement in its first issue: '...This publication exemplifies our common concern as cooperating senior institutions; it is also an expression of our commitment to many other joint efforts with the State's community and junior colleges in implementing the recommendations of the Master Plan and expanding educational opportunity...' Published three times a year, the journal will enhance efforts to closely work with the community college system."
